

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system, comprising:

- at least one user terminal;
- at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
- at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;

said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance.

Claim 2 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 3 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 4 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 5 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 6 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 9 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 1, wherein said indicator is comprised of at least one of a visual indicator, a tactile indicator and an audible indicator.

Claim 10 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:
at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to a receipt of a message from said gateway, indicating that at least one criterion has been met, for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance.

Claim 11 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 12 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 13 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 14 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 15 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 16 (canceled)

Claim 17 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and for transmitting information indicative of the number of satellites to said gateway.

Claim 18 (original): A mobile satellite telecommunications system as in claim 10, wherein said indicator is comprised of at least one of a visual indicator, a tactile indicator and an audible indicator.

Claim 19 (original): A method for operating a mobile satellite telecommunications system, comprising:

- providing at least one user terminal, at least one satellite in earth orbit, and at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
- determining that at least one criterion has been met; and
- activating an indicator of said user terminal for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance.

Claim 20 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 21 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 22 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of a prediction of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 23 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 24 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said user terminal is responsive to received pilot channel signals for detecting a number of satellites through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted.

Claim 27 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said indicator is comprised of at least one of a visual indicator, a tactile indicator and an audible indicator.

Claim 28 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said determination is made in said user terminal.

Claim 29 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said determination is made in said gateway.

Claim 30 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein said determination is made in said gateway based at least in part on information transmitted to said gateway from said user terminal.

Claim 31 (original): A method as in claim 19, wherein the indicator is activated to indicate a potential to drop a call.

Claim 32 (new): A mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:
at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to at least one criterion having been met for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance;
said at least one criterion being comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold of value.

Claim 33 (new): A mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:
at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;
said user terminal comprising a controller responsive to a receipt of a message from said gateway, indicating that at least one criterion has been met, for activating an indicator for informing a user of a potential for reduced user terminal performance,
wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value, and a further occurrence of a signal strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value.

Claim 34 (new): A method for operating a mobile satellite telecommunications system comprising:
providing at least one user terminal;
at least one satellite in earth orbit; and
at least one gateway bidirectionally coupled to a data communications network;

determining the at least one criterion has been met; and
activating an indicator of said user terminal for informing a user of a potential for
reduced user terminal performance,

wherein said at least one criterion is comprised of an occurrence of there being only
one satellite through which a communication between the user terminal and the gateway is
conducted, a further occurrence of an elevation angle between said one satellite and said
user terminal falling below a minimum threshold value, and a further occurrence of a signal
strength or a signal quality of a link between said one satellite and said user terminal falling
below a minimum threshold value.